

New York Herald Tribune
11 May 1954

Senate Group to Question Kokhlov, Ex-Red Assassin

WASHINGTON, May 10 (AP).—Capt. Nikolai E. Khokhlov, one-time assassin for the Soviet secret police, will be questioned by the Senate Internal Security subcommittee at highly secret hearings starting tomorrow, it was announced today. The subcommittee said Capt. Khokhlov arrived in this country from Great Britain "under protective custody" within the last few days.

The Justice Department said he entered the United States "under the attorney General's discretionary authority." It said he is here "under the auspices of the State Department."

The Russian secret police agent concluded secret talks with British authorities before coming to this country. It was reported he gave them details on Soviet espionage and subversion in Western Europe and other areas abroad.

The Red agent surrendered to Allied authorities in Western Germany in February, saying he had been instructed by Alexan-

der Panyushkin, former Soviet Ambassador to the United States, to assassinate a leading anti-Communist Russian in Frankfurt. He has admitted he did kill Nazi Gauleiter Wilhelm Kube on a similar cloak-and-dagger mission during World War II.

Charles B. Grimes, subcommittee counsel, said Capt. Khokhlov's appearance tomorrow will be the start of a "series of closed-door hearings." He said public testimony by Capt. Khokhlov is a possibility "some time in the future."

Mr. Grimes refused to reveal the time or place of tomorrow's session, saying they have been "blacked out" for security reasons. Capt. Khokhlov's co-operation with the subcommittee, Mr. Grimes said, "will not make him popular with the Russian secret police."

Mr. Grimes said he conferred

with Capt. Khokhlov this morning. He declined to discuss their meeting except to say the Russians has a lot of information about the Communists' "world-wide system of espionage and assassination" and has "general knowledge" of Red activities in this country.

"His own activities," Mr. Grimes said, "mostly were confined to Europe" where he served as an MVD agent in Turkey, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

He said Capt. Khokhlov was sent to Frankfurt with two assistants, Hans Kukawitsch and Kurt Weber, with specific instructions from Mr. Panyushkin to assassinate Georgi S. Okolovich, member of the executive board of an anti-Communist Russian Refugee Committee. Instead, he said, all three asked the Western powers for asylum. Messrs. Kukawitsch and Weber, he said, still are "in custody in Germany."

Mr. Grimes said the trio was given its choice of a variety of weapons for Mr. Okolovich's assassination, including pistols equipped with poisoned dum-dum bullets.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
11 May 1954

RED DEATH AGENT TO TELL SECRETS

Assassin Who Fled Soviets
Appears in Capitol Today
—U. S. Contact Stressed

By ANTHONY LEVIERO

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 10—A cloak-and-dagger man from Moscow is scheduled to expose secrets on Capitol Hill tomorrow.

Capt. Nikolai Evgenyevich Khokhlov, self-described Soviet secret police assassin, has been brought here by the State Department and under the "discretionary authority" of the Attorney General, Herbert R. Brownell Jr.

In some secret place, Captain Khokhlov, will testify before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, of which Senator William E. Jenner, Republican of Indiana, is chairman.

Charles B. Grimes, subcommittee counsel said that Captain Khokhlov, who defected to the United States in Germany last month, would appear in closed hearings. He suggested, however, public hearings "sometime in the future."

The Soviet captain said on April 23 in Bonn that he had been sent through the Iron Curtain to kill Georgi Sergeyevich Okolovich, leader of an anti-Communist Russian refugee organization. His story created a sensation. His wife, whom he left to an uncertain fate in Moscow, had urged him to surrender to the United States rather than commit the murder, he told United States authorities.

Investigated Carefully

Mr. Grimes revealed the committee's plans after he had questioned Captain Khokhlov secretly this morning.

The fact that the Justice and State Departments had joined in bringing the Soviet agent here indicated that the Government regarded him as a true defector and not an agent deliberately "planted" by Moscow in the West in the hope of compromising former adherents of Lavrenti Beria, the former chief of the Soviet Secret Police, who was purged after Stalin's death.

Some doubts had been raised abroad, but since he surrendered with two German accomplices, Captain Khokhlov has been questioned closely and investigated by United States counter-intelligence agents.

Mr. Grimes said this evening that the Soviet captain knew the entire MVD (Soviet secret police) pattern outside Russia, and was especially valuable because he had had contacts with the "American desk" of the Soviet system. That office would supervise undercover Russian operations.

Captain Khokhlov also has traveled from "Turkey to Denmark," according to Mr. Grimes. —has traversed Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Germany and Holland in missions of murder and spying.

Mr. Grimes explained that the Russian had been brought here in the last few days and believed Captain Khokhlov would receive permanent asylum in the hope of encouraging other Russians to desert. Notable recent desertions have included a Secretary of the Soviet Embassy and his wife in Australia.

Uses an Interpreter

"We assume he [Captain Khokhlov] is not popular with the M. V. D.," said Mr. Grimes, and added that he hoped the Russian would be able to give information on "the world-wide assassination plans and the reign of terror" of the secret police.

The Soviet agent may be able to give the story of the assassination in Mexico City of Leon Trotsky, exiled Communist leader, said Mr. Grimes.

Captain Khokhlov is 31 years old and speaks through a Russian interpreter. He never has been in the United States before, according to Mr. Grimes, having operated only in Europe. When the captain surrendered, he said he had received his murder assignment from Aleksander S. Panyushkin, former Russian Ambassador to the United States, who is now chief of the M. V. D. After Captain Khokhlov had

obtained asylum, Walter Dowling, accused the Soviet Union of an "outrageous and uncivilized" action in ordering the assassination of the anti-Communist leader. He filed the charge with Vladimir S. Semenov, the Soviet High Commissioner.

The secret agent also appealed to the United States to make representations to the Soviet Union on humanitarian grounds to spare his wife and allow her to leave Moscow and join him. No word as to her fate has been revealed.

Captain Khokhlov surrendered four murder weapons. Two were in the form of cigarette cases that could fire poisoned pellets. Analysis showed that each of the grooved pellets, which spread and tear when they strike, contained deadly potassium cyanide.

He also had two pistols that looked like toys but they were silently electrically fired.